UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/141
11 February 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft continued between 16 and 31 January 1999 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 16-31 January 1999

1. In the northern region 164 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 5,000 to 14,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Rawanduz, Baibo and Sinjar.

2. In the southern region 840 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 16,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'aniyah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ali al-Sharqi, Hawr al-Hammar, Madinah, Ansab, Nukhayb, Afak, Suq al-Shuyukh, Chabaish and Najaf South.

3. At 0930 hours on 7 January 1999 a United States frigate prevented the tanker Front Champion from entering the Mina' al-Bakr channel. The harbour master was not allowed to bring it in until inspection was completed at 0700 hours on the following day.

4. At 1006 hours on 18 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

5. At 0924 hours on 23 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Qurnah area of Basrah Governorate and fired four projectiles. Several civilians were wounded in the bombardment. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

6. At 1430 hours on 24 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in the Qayyarah area of Ninawa Governorate and fired a number of projectiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

7. At 1026 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Shu'aybah area of Basrah Governorate and fired two projectiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

8. At 1130 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait committed a brutal act of military aggression using bombs and missiles, including long-range missiles, against Basrah Governorate in southern Iraq. It affected a number of areas, including residential neighbourhoods in Basrah city and its outlying villages. There were large numbers of dead and wounded, including several women, children and elderly persons, a number of homes were destroyed, and there was property damage.

/...

(This was the subject of a letter dated 29 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council.) United States and British aircraft also bombarded Basrah Airport and the Rumaylah oilfield.

9. At 1026 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Basrah area.

10. At 1046 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Hawr al-Hammar area.

11. At 1307 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region.

12. At 1410 hours on 25 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in the Mosul area and fired one missile. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

13. At 1330, 1345, 1353 and 1355 hours on 26 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in Ninawa Governorate in the northern region and fired nine missiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

14. At 1106, 1627 and 1700 hours on 26 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region.

15. At 1620 hours on 26 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Faw area.

16. At 1425, 1532, 1550, 1553 and 1700 hours on 27 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Umm Qasr area.

17. At 0920 and 0945 hours on 27 January 1999 a large number of United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Mina' al-Bakr and Umm Qasr areas.

18. At 0950 hours on 27 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Faw area.

19. At 1345, 1541 and 1545 hours on 28 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region and fired four missiles. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

20. At 1300 hours on 29 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region.

21. At 1300 and 1310 hours on 29 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace in the Faw area.

22. At 1325 hours on 30 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace in the northern region. Twelve formations approached from Turkish territory, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft that remained inside Turkish airspace, and carried out 22 sorties against our air-defence weapons systems in which they fired 17 missiles and other projectiles.

23. At 1630 hours on 30 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace. Fourteen formations penetrated Iraqi airspace, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft inside Kuwaiti airspace. They carried out 16 sorties from Kuwaiti airspace and 20 sorties from Saudi airspace.

24. At 0900 and 1515 hours on 31 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi airspace. Thirteen formations approached from Kuwaiti territory, supported by an E-2C aircraft inside Kuwaiti airspace, and 15 formations approached from Saudi territory, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 62 sorties inside Iraqi airspace and attacked our air-defence weapons systems sites in Dhi Qar and Maysan Governorates, firing seven missiles and other projectiles at them. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.

25. At 1500 hours on 31 January 1999 United States and British aircraft from bases in Turkish territory violated Iraqi airspace. Eight formations approached from Turkish territory, supported by an AWACS early-warning aircraft that remained inside Turkish airspace. They carried out 18 sorties, attacked air-defence sites in the city of Mosul and fired one HARM missile. Our air defence units, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and drove them off.